Dear Paul, 9/28/75

I've been at it since 5 a.m. and soon, at 10 p.m., I have several hours to do by phone to a Milwaukee radiom station on the King assassination. So this will be brief for me, unedited because I have to start other, deadline work when I get up in the morning.

My purpose in the extravagance of a call today was to ask if you have any good connection with 20th Century-Fox. Someone from there phone me a week or two ago about being on their assassination special. I offered the rights to my work and was greeting with excitement. I was told I'd heard from the writer, Andrew Salt. I haven't.

Meanwhile, there seems little doubt that CBS is going to rip me off. The minor indistry is growing into a major one.

I have every reason now to want to cream CBS as well as seel these rights, a normal literary arrangement.

If I can find time tomorrow I may try to get through to someone myself.

I'm rushing Post Mortem and telling just about nobody that I am. There is no point in enticing other thieves. With just two of us to do all the work except the face of the cover and the actual printing and with book as enormous as it is (660 pages, I think) there is little time for anything else and not enough for this.

It really is definitive. As I told you, the climate is changed. There is no doubt that this work will be used by a Congressional committee. I've been asked. Two nets at least are scheduled, CBS now for four hours. (I've refused to appear on it because they confronted me with a serious conflict of interest in one of their cheap self-promotions/publicitystunts and probable cover for the ripoff.It is thinking about this transparent move in court and the language both prejudicial to Kay and concepts of justice that made me see other things more clearly, including their staying away from me on JFK. No pro could not know I could not be party to what CBS said - without need for saying it - in the court papers filed in Memphis 9/19.)

Howevern with what I'll get from the underpaid ancillary use added to the escrow account from the other books I can bring this out when it is readyn and when the printer can manufacture. It will be $10.00, by insured mail $10.75, which is high for my books but cheap for any today and any of this size. I haven't counted the documents but there will be more than 150 pages in the appendix in facsimile plus some in the text. The tribute to me by the fbi is in the text. They told federal court I know more about the subject than anyone in the FBI. Natch it will be on the cover, too.

I'm convinced more than ever that the people out there are losuy businessmen and people who don't remember the Rooseveltian wisdom about fearing fear.

This won't get out until tomorrow evening, although it will be picked up in the morning.

Here the station called and I did the show to midnight. It always generates much adrenalin, so a bit more while I wind down and can go to bed.

I could have been answering questions for another 24 hours on this show alone. People out there don't begin to understand the commercial prospects of <u>responsible</u> treatment in which for several years there has been no real risk. There si no topic as hot or commercially promising today. I don't know how anyone can convince those who don't have to think or want not to. The ripoffs proliferate. Bantam has givenn a six-figure advance to what it has to know will be plagiarized. (I've given them notice.) To a man who <u>can't</u> have done any work,because he is on the staff of a magazine which is already promoting it and him. (He has still another career, in TV.) It will be a crappy rehash, so it is safe. But that size advance on crap indicates their estimate of the market. CBS has already pissed away more in waste on its special that it would take to keep me for the rest of my life. Their estimate of the commercial angles is: they have <u>doubled</u> the time, from 2 to 4 hours. The conservative Washington Star has just run a series of three long articles that, while ripped off professionally, are critical as hell. <u>Van</u> the Hollywood mercenaries be this far out out touch? Best,